



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
P.O. BOX 1450
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK NY 10112

MAIL

SEP 20 2006

DIRECTOR OFFICE
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600

In re U.S. Patent of:
Mizuki Muramatsu
Application No. 09/516,969
Filed: February 29, 2000
U.S. Patent No. 6,972,969
Issued: December 6, 2005

**NOTIFICATION OF PRIOR ART
CITATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.501**

A citation of prior art under 37 C.F.R. § 1.501 has been filed by the patent owner on January 12, 2006, in the above-identified patent, entitled "**IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS AND METHOD, AND STORAGE MEDIUM.**"

Any inquiry concerning this decision should be directed to Krista Zele whose telephone number is (571) 272-7288.

Krista Zele, Special Program Examiner
Technology Center 2600
Communications